

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 217

By Herron

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of the Honorable Thurston Lee Smith.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of the Honorable Thurston Lee Smith of Stewart County; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith was an exemplary public servant who worked diligently to improve the quality of life for his fellow Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith served with wisdom and alacrity as the devoted employee of Acme Boot Company in Clarksville, Tennessee, and as an employee of the United Steel Workers, in which positions he earned the respect of his peers and superiors alike for the exemplary quality of work; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith ardently served his community and fellow citizens with distinction as a member of the Stewart County Commission; and

WHEREAS, a pillar of his community, he also served with acumen and eagerness as a member of the Stewart County Chamber of Commerce, the Stewart County Historical Society, the Kiwanis Club, and as a board member of the North Stewart Water District; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith valiantly expressed his character as an exceptional gentleman by serving as a member of the Child Advocacy Committee, as Chairman of the Stewart County Fire Department, and as a member of the Tennessee Community Services Agency Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith exemplified patriotism and devotion to working people and hurting people by serving many years as Chairman of the Stewart County Democratic Party; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith was an active and devout member of the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, the quintessential father and spouse, he was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always remained true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith is survived by his loving companion Marie Atkins, with whom he was joined in marriage in Corinth, Mississippi, on January 28, 1956, and with whom he enjoyed more than fifty-four years of faithful love; and

WHEREAS, this couple was blessed with two children, Deborah Smith Austin, who is the wife of Wayne Austin, and Beverly Smith Fussell, who is the wife of Mike Fussell; and one extraordinary grandson, Lee Douglas Austin; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith leaves behind an unforgettable legacy of integrity and decency in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Mr. Thurston Lee Smith, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of the Honorable Thurston Lee Smith.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.